

CLAIMS

1. A follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 200 mPa·s or more at 5 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 80 mass% or more of all components, the viscosity at 40°C is from 1,000 to 30,000 mPa·s, and the shear-thinning index at a shear rate of 1 to 10/s is 0.95 or more.

10 2. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the follower at 40°C is from 1,500 to 15,000 mPa·s.

3. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 2, wherein the viscosity of the follower at 40°C is from 3,000 to 10,000 mPa·s.

15 4. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the shear-thinning index of the follower at a shear rate of 1 to 10/s is 0.97 or more.

20 5. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 200 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 98 mass% or more of all components.

25 6. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 1,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 90 mass% or more of all components.

30 7. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 50 mass% or more of all

components.

8. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 7, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 60 mass% or more of all components.

9. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 8, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 70 mass% or more of all components.

10. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is mainly a polymer of an  $\alpha$ -olefin having a carbon number of 8 to 20.

11. The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is mainly a polymer of an  $\alpha$ -olefin having a carbon number of 8 to 12.

12. A nonaqueous ballpoint pen comprising a nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink and the follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, and using an ink reservoir tube having an inner diameter of 2.8 mm or less, the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink being an ink in which a solvent comprising an alcohol and/or glycol monoether having a vapor pressure of 0.2 to 50 mmHg at 20°C occupies from 10 to 100 mass% of the ink solvent.

13. The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12, wherein the concentration of water contained in the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink is 5 mass% or less.

14. The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink contains substantially no water.

15. The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the nonaqueous ballpoint

pen ink is an ink in which the solvent comprising an alcohol and/or glycol monoether of 0.2 to 50 mmHg occupies from 50 to 100 mass% of the ink solvent.

16. The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in any 5 one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the inner diameter of the ink reservoir tube is from 1.5 to 2.7 mm.

17. The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inner diameter of the ink reservoir tube is from 1.6 to 2.6 mm.